



Summary

This paper outlines how doing a Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme can support the Welsh Baccalaureate (Bac).

DofE programmes build on young people's skills and we recognise their achievements with a highly valued DofE Award.

Both the Welsh Bac and the DofE aim to develop young people through education of the whole person placing emphasis on the non-formal aspects of learning. Young people doing their DofE can use it to help provide evidence of achievements towards the Welsh Baccalaureate.

About the Welsh Bac

The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification is available to 14-19 year olds in Wales and consists of two parts:

The Core - consisting of five components: Key Skills, Wales, Europe and the World, Work-related Education, Personal and Social Education and an Individual Investigation.

Options - courses / programmes currently offered e.g. General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), Vocational GCSE (VGCSE), Advanced Subsidiary / Advanced (AS / A levels), National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC), Principal Learning and Project Qualification.

Together, the Core and Options make up the Welsh Bac qualification.

Read on to learn how the DofE supports young people doing their Welsh Bac.

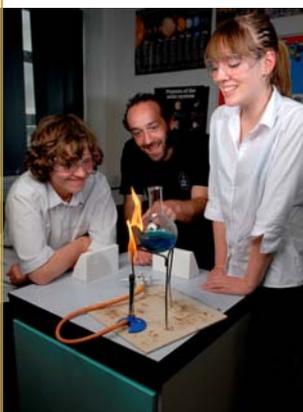
Aims and objectives of the Welsh Bac	How DofE programmes complement the Welsh Bac:
Offer an exciting and challenging programme	Doing a DofE programme gives young people new and exciting experiences and challenges.
Empower students to take charge of their own learning and development	Participants are the architects of their own programme when doing their DofE; they plan and review their own programme. 80% of young people said doing their DofE gave them the ability to reflect on their own learning and understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. *
Increase confidence and personal skills	The DofE offers young people a programme of personal development, improving their confidence and skills. 74% of young people feel doing their DofE has developed their self-esteem. *
Give young people the skills employers and universities want	Achieving a DofE Award enables young people to demonstrate commitment and the transferable skills desired by employers, such as team working and problem solving. 87% of young people want to do their DofE because it is attractive to employers. *
Promote active citizenship	A DofE programme develops compassion through helping others in the Volunteering section. 90% of young people felt doing their DofE gave them the opportunity to help others. *
Develop an awareness of living in a contemporary Wales, Europe and the world	The DofE is run in over 120 countries, contributing a wider perspective to an individual's programme. There are a number of volunteering opportunities available within the Charity in Wales, the UK and internationally.
Encourage progression to further and higher education training or employment	DofE Awards are beneficial in supporting young people's employment prospects, and can often inspire young people to progress with further training in an activity they have taken on as part of their DofE programme.

"The DofE enhances and enriches the college curriculum by providing the opportunity to set and achieve personal goals whilst working as part of a team."

DofE Leader, Coleg Morgnwg

The issue in detail

The Welsh Baccalaureate Core aims to provide breadth and balance through the variety of the experiences it promotes. The Core ensures students develop their key skills through interesting experiences and activities which will complement the subject and skills they gain through the Options.



Core component	Areas of work	DofE added value
Key skills	Communication	DofE programmes enhance young people's communication skills through all the sections especially through volunteering, where young people learn to communicate with a variety of people. The expedition enhances communication skills through working as a team and through the presentation they are required to give, reviewing their experience.
	Application of number	Through navigation on an expedition young people develop various mathematical skills including measuring distances and calculating timings using formulae.
	IT	Participants are required to log their DofE activities on their own online profile page in eDofE, planning their routes and uploading evidence. Young people can also chose to take up IT for their Skills section.
	Improving own learning and performance	DofE programmes are participant-led and require young people to devise their own programme, set their own goals and regularly review their progress, giving them an awareness of their own learning and performance.
	Working with others	Young people demonstrate working with others across sections, particularly through the Expedition section which is completed as a team and teaches young people how to work together to achieve a goal. The Residential section also requires young people to work with people they do not know. 93% of young people feel doing their DofE helped them develop team working skills. *
	Problem solving	Across a DofE programme young people face problems which they will need to overcome. On the Expedition section particularly, young people regularly have to solve problems. A team may encounter difficult weather, unexpected changes to footpaths and the ability to consider a range of solutions and take appropriate action are vital to the successful completion of the section. 77% of young people said doing their DofE developed their problem-solving skills. *
Wales, Europe and the world	Social challenges and responses	Through volunteering opportunities young people can develop an understanding of the social challenges people face and explore the responses that exist.
	Heritage and cultural perspectives	Young people often take on project based learning for the Skills section, the variety of topics can be as broad as the individual's imagination.
Work related education	Work with an employer for at least 30 hours	The skills acquired across the sections of the DofE are highly valued by employers. The experiences and skills developed whilst volunteering in a charity or in a community setting can directly support future employment aspirations.
	A team enterprise activity	Young people often choose to take on a team enterprise activity as part of their Skills section.

"I did something that affected the outer world - not just my little bubble."

DofE participant, Impact Research 2009

Core component	Areas of work	DofE added value
Personal and social education	Positive relationships	DofE promotes positive relationships by placing an emphasis on team-work. Through the Volunteering section young people have the opportunity to build positive relationships with people in their communities.
	Health and emotional well being	The DofE offers a balanced programme of development concentrating on the mind body and soul. Physical activity promotes physical and mental well being, and by making a positive contribution to others whilst achieving goals increases young people's confidence.
	Active citizenship	The Volunteering section promotes active citizenship and activity in young people's communities.
	Activity in the local community	The Volunteering section of the DofE requires a practical hands on contribution in the local community. The DofE helps young people create positive changes in society.
	Sustainable development and global citizenship	The DofE framework is used around the world, encouraging young people to consider the impact of their actions on a wide scale.

"The Bac offers candidates the opportunity to... draw upon their wider activities (for example The Duke of Edinburgh's Award)".

Level 3 Advanced Diploma Specification WJEC / CBAC



Doing a DofE programme can also provide:

Effective ways to gather evidence

DofE participants generate a portfolio of evidence to whatever scale the participant chooses. Within eDofE, the online recording system, young people can include photography, video, audio and text to create a unique achievement pack which can be used as supporting evidence for elements of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Encouragement to create a balanced, individual programme

Young people can identify the wider key skills and their personal development while following their individual interests and goals. DofE promotes development of the whole person, young people take part in volunteering, physical activity, skill development and undertake an unaccompanied expedition with peers.



"We do community work for our Welsh Bac. As we are already doing our Gold DofE we are completing community work through our Volunteering section. So we count this for our Welsh Bac to which is a great help, using our DofE towards it gets us recognition for the work we are already doing so it's good."

Hywel, Gold DofE participant and Welsh Bac Student

* Statistics given are taken from *The Impact of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award on Young People* research by The University of Northampton 2007 - 2009

"The DofE allows people of all backgrounds and races to take part in things that they would otherwise not have the opportunity to...the social skills gained mean it's easier to fit into society."

Sumiya, Gold Award holder, Kirklees



The DofE Charity

Youth charity The Duke of Edinburgh's Award supports over 275,000 people aged 14-24 every year, including 30,000 who are excluded and vulnerable.

Almost 10,000 young people started their DofE in Wales last year and almost 1,000 are doing their DofE in Welsh.

Our ethos is to enable every young person of every background to take part in our programmes and succeed, regardless of any barriers.

Our mission

To inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievements.

DofE programmes

Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of the three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
- At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth **Residential** section, which involves staying and working away from home doing a shared activity.

Principles of all DofE programmes

- Non-competitive
- Achievable by all
- Voluntary
- Personal development
- Personalised
- Balanced
- Progressive
- Achievement focussed
- Demand commitment
- Enjoyable

Achieving a Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Young people will achieve a Duke of Edinburgh's Award if they show persistence, commitment and personal development over a period of time.

Every activity must be successfully completed and assessed. The result is the world's leading achievement award for young people, recognised by employers and universities alike.

Where is it run?

DofE programmes are delivered under licence by over 400 partners (Operating Authorities) who offer it in over 10,000 DofE groups run in centres such as youth clubs, voluntary organisations, schools, colleges, Young Offenders Institutions and businesses, which are run and supported by over 50,000 adult volunteers.

Our impact

Young people doing a DofE programme develop skills for work and life and become better citizens.

Independent Impact Research, carried out from 2007-2009 by The University of Northampton and supported by The Pears Foundation, showed:

- 93% of participants developed teamwork skills
- 84% feel the DofE gave them totally new experiences
- 82% of participants want to continue volunteering after they've achieved their Award
- 79% of young people believe they develop independence
- 74% of participants developed their self-esteem
- 81% feel their DofE makes them more adventurous
- 84% of participants felt they became more responsible
- 84% felt more able to stick at tasks
- 81% had increased motivation.

We have a lasting impact on young people's behaviour, skills and life chances.

Further information

For further details of DofE programmes and the Welsh Bac please contact:

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